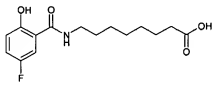
AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims so that they read as follows:

Claims 1-17 (Canceled)

18. (Previously Presented) A compound comprising:



(Cpd #54)

or a salt thereof.

19. (Previously Presented) The compound of claim 18 wherein said salt is a sodium salt.

20. (Previously Presented) A composition comprising:

(A) at least one active agent; and

(B) the compound of claim 18.

21. (Currently Amended) The ~~compound~~ composition of claim 20 wherein said salt is a sodium salt.

22. (Previously Presented) The composition of claim 20, wherein said active agent is selected from the group consisting of a biologically active agent, a chemically active agent, or a combination thereof.

23. (Previously Presented) The composition of claim 20, wherein said biologically active agent comprises at least one protein, polypeptide, peptide, hormone, polysaccharide, mucopolysaccharide, carbohydrate, or lipid.

24. (Previously Presented) The composition of claim 23, wherein said biologically active agent comprises a protein, polypeptide or peptide.

25. (Previously Presented) The composition of claim 23, wherein said biologically active agent comprises a mucopolysaccharide.

26. (Previously Presented) The composition of claim 22, wherein said biologically active agent is selected from the group consisting of: growth hormone, growth hormone-releasing hormones, interferons, interleukin-1, interleukin-2, insulin, insulin-like growth factor (IGF), heparin, calcitonin, erythropoietin (EPO), atrial naturetic factor, antigens, monoclonal antibodies, somatostatin, protease inhibitors, adrenocorticotropin, gonadotropin releasing hormone, oxytocin, leutinizing-hormone-releasing-hormone, follicle stimulating hormone, glucocerebrosidase, thrombopoietin, filgrastim, prostaglandins, cyclosporin, vasopressin, cromolyn sodium, vancomycin, desferrioxamine (DFO), parathyroid hormone (PTH), anti-microbial agents, anti-fungal agents; analogs, fragments, mimetics and polyethylene glycol (PEG)-modified derivatives of these compounds; and any combination thereof.

27. (Previously Presented) The composition of claim 26, wherein said biologically active agent comprises a growth hormone, interferon, insulin, heparin, cromolyn sodium, an antigen, an anti-microbial agent, calcitonin, parathyroid hormone, erythropoietin, and combinations thereof.

28. (Previously Presented) The composition of claim 27, wherein said growth hormone comprises human growth hormones (hGH), recombinant human growth hormones (rhGH), bovine growth hormones, porcine growth hormones, or a combination thereof

29. (Previously Presented) The composition of claim 26, wherein said biologically active agent comprises interferon.

30. (Previously Presented) The composition of claim 26, wherein said biologically active agent comprises insulin.

31. (Previously Presented) The composition of claim 26, wherein said insulin comprises porcine insulin, bovine insulin, human insulin, and human recombinant insulin.

32. (Previously Presented) The composition of claim 26, wherein said biologically active agent comprises heparin.

33. (Previously Presented) The composition of claim 32, wherein said heparin comprises low molecular weight heparin, very low molecular weight heparin, ultra low molecular weight heparin, heparinoids, dermatans, chondroitins, or a combination thereof.

34. (Previously Presented) The composition of claim 33, wherein said biologically active agent comprises low molecular weight heparin.

35. (Previously Presented) The composition of claim 26, wherein said biologically active agent comprises cromolyn sodium.

36. (Previously Presented) The composition of claim 35, wherein said cromolyn sodium comprises sodium chromoglycate, disodium chromoglycate or a combination thereof.

37. (Previously Presented) The composition of claim 26, wherein said biologically active agent comprises an antigen.

38. (Previously Presented) The composition of claim 26, wherein said biologically active agent comprises an anti-microbial agent.

39. (Previously Presented) The composition of claim 26, wherein said biologically active agent comprises calcitonin.

40. (Previously Presented) The composition of claim 39, wherein said calcitonin comprises salmon calcitonin, eel calcitonin, human calcitonin or a combination thereof

41. (Previously Presented) The composition of claim 26, wherein said biologically active agent comprises parathyroid hormone.

42. (Previously Presented) The composition of claim 26, wherein said biologically active agent comprises erythropoietin.

43. (Previously Presented) A dosage unit form comprising

(A) a composition as defined in claim 20; and

(B) (a) an excipient

(b) a diluent,

(c) a disintegrant,

(d) a lubricant,

(e) a plasticizer,

(f) a colorant,

(g) a dosing vehicle, or

(h) any combination thereof.

44. (Previously Presented) The dosage unit form of claim 43 wherein said salt of said compound is a sodium salt.

45. (Previously Presented) The dosage unit form of claim 43, comprising a powder.

46. (Previously Presented) The dosage unit form of claim 43 comprising a tablet.

47. (Previously Presented) The dosage unit form of claim 43 comprising a capsule.

48. (Previously Presented) The dosage unit form of claim 43 comprising a liquid.

49. (Previously Presented) The dosage unit form of claim 43, wherein said active agent is selected from the group consisting of a biologically active agent, a chemically active agent, or a combination thereof.

50. (Previously Presented) The dosage unit form of claim 49, wherein said biologically active agent comprises at least one protein, polypeptide, peptide, hormone, polysaccharide, mucopolysaccharide, carbohydrate, or lipid.

51. (Previously Presented) The dosage unit form of claim 50, wherein said biologically active agent comprises a protein, polypeptide or peptide.

52. (Previously Presented) The dosage unit form of claim 50, wherein said biologically active agent comprises a mucopolysaccharide.

53. (Previously Presented) The dosage unit form of claim 43, wherein said dosing vehicle is selected from the group consisting of water, 1,2-propane diol, ethanol, olive oil or any combination thereof.

54. (Previously Presented) The dosage unit form of claim 43, wherein said biologically active agent is selected from the group consisting of: growth hormone, growth hormone-releasing hormones, interferons, interleukin-1, interleukin-2, insulin, insulin-like growth factor(IGF), heparin, calcitonin, erythropoietin (EPO), atrial naturetic factor, antigens, monoclonal antibodies, somatostatin, protease inhibitors, adrenocorticotropin, gonadotropin releasing hormone, oxytocin, leutinizing-hormone-releasing-hormone, follicle stimulating hormone, glucocerebrosidase, thrombopoietin, filgrastim, prostaglandins, cyclosporin, vasopressin, cromolyn sodium, vancomycin, desferrioxamine (DFO), parathyroid hormone (PTH), anti-microbials agents, anti-fungal agents; analogs, fragments, mimetics and polyethylene glycol (PEG)-modified derivatives of these compounds; and any combination thereof.

55. (Previously Presented) The dosage unit form of claim 54, wherein said biologically active agent comprises a growth hormone, interferon, insulin, heparin, cromolyn sodium, an antigen, an anti-microbial agent, calcitonin, parathyroid hormone, erythropoietin, and combinations thereof.

56. (Previously Presented) The dosage unit form of claim 54, wherein said growth hormone comprises human growth hormones (hGH), recombinant human growth hormones (rhGH), bovine growth hormones, porcine growth hormones, or a combination thereof.

57. (Previously Presented) The dosage unit form of claim 54, wherein said biologically active agent comprises interferon.

58. (Previously Presented) The dosage unit form of claim 54, wherein said biologically active agent comprises insulin.

59. (Previously Presented) The dosage unit form of claim 58, wherein said insulin comprises porcine insulin, bovine insulin, human insulin, and human recombinant insulin.

60. (Previously Presented) The dosage unit form of claim 54, wherein said biologically active agent comprises heparin.

61. (Currently Amended) The ~~composition~~ dosage unit form of claim 60, wherein said heparin comprises low molecular weight heparin, very low molecular weight heparin, ultra low molecular weight heparin, heparinoids, dermatans, chondroitins, or a combination thereof.

62. (Previously Presented) The dosage unit form of claim 61, wherein said biologically active agent comprises low molecular weight heparin.

63. (Previously Presented) The dosage unit form of claim 54, wherein said biologically active agent comprises cromolyn sodium.

64. (Currently Amended) The ~~composition~~ dosage unit form of claim 63, wherein said cromolyn sodium comprises sodium chromoglycate, disodium chromoglycate or a combination thereof.

65. (Previously Presented) The dosage unit form of claim 54, wherein said biologically active agent comprises an antigen.

66. (Previously Presented) The dosage unit form of claim 54, wherein said biologically active agent comprises an anti-microbial agent.

67. (Previously Presented) The dosage unit form of claim 54, wherein said biologically active agent comprises calcitonin.

68. (Previously Presented) The dosage unit form of claim 54, wherein said calcitonin comprises salmon calcitonin, eel calcitonin, human calcitonin or a combination thereof.

69. (Previously Presented) The dosage unit form of claim 54, wherein said biologically active agent comprises parathyroid hormone.

70. (Previously Presented) The dosage unit form of claim 54, wherein said biologically active agent comprises erythropoietin.

71. (Previously Presented A method for administering a biologically-active agent to an animal in need of said agent, said method comprising administering to said animal the composition of claim 20.

72. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 71 wherein said salt of said compound is a sodium salt.

73. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 71, wherein said biologically-active agent is administered by a route which is: oral, intranasal, sublingual, intraduodenal, subcutaneous, buccal, intracolonic, rectal, vaginal, mucosal, pulmonary, transdermal, intradermal, parenteral, intravenous, intramuscular and intraocular.

74. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 71, wherein said biologically-active agent is administered by oral route.

75. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 71, wherein said active agent is selected from the group consisting of a biologically active agent, a chemically active agent, or a combination thereof.

76. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 71, wherein said biologically active agent comprises at least one protein, polypeptide, peptide, hormone, polysaccharide, mucopolysaccharide, carbohydrate, or lipid.

77. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 76, wherein said biologically active agent comprises a protein, polypeptide, peptide.

78. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 76, wherein said biologically active agent comprises a mucopolysaccharide.

79. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 75, wherein said biologically active agent is selected from the group consisting of: growth hormone, growth hormone-releasing hormones, interferons, interleukin-1, interleukin-2, insulin, insulin-like growth factor(IGF), heparin, calcitonin, erythropoietin (EPO), atrial naturetic factor, antigens, monoclonal antibodies, somatostatin, protease inhibitors, adrenocorticotropin, gonadotropin releasing hormone, oxytocin, leutinizing-hormone-releasing-hormone, follicle stimulating hormone, glucocerebrosidase, thrombopoietin, filgrastim, prostaglandins, cyclosporin, vasopressin, cromolyn sodium, vancomycin, desferrioxamine (DFO), parathyroid hormone (PTH), anti-microbial agents, anti-fungal agents; analogs, fragments, mimetics and polyethylene glycol (PEG)-modified derivatives of these compounds; and any combination thereof.

80. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 79, wherein said biologically active agent comprises a growth hormone, interferon, insulin, heparin, cromolyn sodium, an antigen, an anti-microbial agent, calcitonin, parathyroid hormone, erythropoietin, and combinations thereof.

81. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 79, wherein said growth hormone comprises human growth hormones (hGH), recombinant human growth hormones (rhGH), bovine growth hormones, porcine growth hormones, or a combination thereof

82. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 79, wherein said biologically active agent comprises interferon.

83. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 79, wherein said biologically active agent comprises insulin.

84. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 83, wherein said insulin comprises porcine insulin, bovine insulin, human insulin, and human recombinant insulin,

85. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 79, wherein said biologically active agent comprises heparin.

86. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 85, wherein said heparin comprises low molecular weight heparin, very low molecular weight heparin, ultra low molecular weight heparin, heparinoids, dermatans, chondroitins, or a combination thereof.

87. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 86, wherein said biologically active agent comprises low molecular weight heparin.

88. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 79, wherein said biologically active agent comprises cromolyn sodium.

89. (Currently Amended) The ~~composition~~ method of claim 88, wherein said cromolyn sodium comprises sodium chromoglycate, disodium chromoglycate or a combination thereof.

90. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 79, wherein said biologically active agent comprises an antigen.

91. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 79, wherein said biologically active agent comprises an anti-microbial agent.

92. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 79, wherein said biologically active agent comprises calcitonin.

93. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 92, wherein said calcitonin comprises salmon calcitonin, eel calcitonin, human calcitonin or a combination thereof.

94. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 79, wherein said biologically active agent comprises parathyroid hormone.

95. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 79, wherein said biologically active agent comprises erythropoietin.

96. (Previously Presented) A method for preparing a composition, said method comprising mixing:

(A) at least one active agent;

(B) at least one compound as defined in claim 18; and

(C) optionally, a dosing vehicle.

97. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 96 wherein said salt of said compound is a sodium salt.

98. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 96, wherein said active agent is selected from the group consisting of a biologically active agent, a chemically active agent, or a combination thereof.

99. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 98, wherein said biologically active agent comprises at least one protein, polypeptide, peptide, hormone, polysaccharide, mucopolysaccharide, carbohydrate, or lipid.

100. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 99, wherein said biologically active agent comprises a protein, polypeptide or peptide.

101. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 99, wherein said biologically active agent comprises a mucopolysaccharide.

102. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 98, wherein said biologically active agent is selected from the group consisting of: growth hormone, growth hormone-releasing hormones, interferons, interleukin-1, interleukin-2, insulin, insulin-like growth factor(IGF), heparin, calcitonin, erythropoietin (EPO), atrial naturetic factor, antigens, monoclonal antibodies, somatostatin, protease inhibitors, adrenocorticotropin, gonadotropin releasing hormone, oxytocin, leutinizing-hormone-releasing-hormone, follicle stimulating hormone, glucocerebrosidase, thrombopoietin, filgrastim, prostaglandins, cyclosporin, vasopressin, cromolyn sodium, vancomycin, desferrioxamine (DFO), parathyroid hormone (PTH), antimicrobials, anti-fungal agents; analogs, fragments, mimetics and polyethylene glycol (PEG)-modified derivatives of these compounds; and any combination thereof.